

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5 and 14 are amended for clarity, and new claim 15 is added. Support for new claim 15 can be found at least at Figs. 8 and 9. No new matter is introduced.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 5-14 contain allowable subject matter. However, Applicants respectively submit that all claims are allowable at least for the reasons discussed below.

The Office Action objects to the abstract in the specification. The abstract is amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the abstract.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hisada (U.S. Patent No. 6,743,527). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In particular, Applicants assert that Hisada does not disclose at least center holes in a disc-like shaped substrate and a light transmitting layer formed by forming a circular cut in the light transmitting layer after forming the light transmitting layer on the substrate, and then punching out at least a part of an area inside the circular cut, as recited in independent claim 1.

Hisada discloses an optical disk 10 having a first substrate (11, 21, 31, 41, 51 and 56) including a signal area SA on a face thereof, and a second substrate (12) exposed to laser light for recording/reproducing a signal. However, Hisada merely discloses a process bringing the first substrate (11, 21, 31, 41, 51 and 56) having a circular center hole (A) and the second substrate (12) (a light transmitting layer) that is transparent and thinner than the first substrate into contact with each other with a radiation curable resin 13a interposed therebetween. See Figs. 6, 10, 12 and 17. Thus, Hisada fails to teach a process that forms the center holes in the

first substrate and the second substrate after forming the second substrate on the first substrate.


Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that Hisada does not disclose at least center holes in a disc-like shaped substrate and a light transmitting layer formed by forming a circular cut in the light transmitting layer after forming the light transmitting layer on the substrate, and then punching out at least a part of an area inside the circular cut, as recited in independent claim 1.

In view of the above, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2-4 depend from independent claim 1, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn. Further, new claim 15 depends from independent claim 1, and therefore also defines patentable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Substitute Abstract
Petition for Extension of Time

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